

State Senator
Eric Coleman's
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Please utilize my office if you have questions, issues or concerns regarding a state agency or program. Call me at:

860-240-0528

Visit my website to reach me via e-mail:

www.SenatorColeman.cga.ct.gov

Other Helpful phone number:

- INFOLINE (community services)..... 211
- Dept. of Motor Vehicles..... 1-800-842-8222
- Renter's Rebate Hotline860-418-6377
- Consumer Protection
- Fraud Hotline..... 1-800-842-2649
- Health Care Advocate 1-866-466-4446
- "Do Not Call" list 1-888-382-1222
- Careline (to report child abuse or neglect) 1-800-842-2288



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Barbershop Talk About a Baseball Stadium

At Main Street Barbers—half a block from the site of the proposed Rock Cats stadium—the topic of conversation was on Hartford taxpayers footing the bill for a private sports team's profit. I feel the city should focus on other opportunities for full-time jobs and build on the work we've done at the Capitol to support small businesses.

Your State Senator

Eric Coleman

Representing Bloomfield, Hartford & Windsor



Listening to Tony Karlowicz, co-founder of Back East Brewing Company, at the company's brewery in Bloomfield—another Small Business Express state matching grant recipient.



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Continuing to Deliver

After months of hard work, Bloomfield, Hartford and Windsor will now benefit from the new state budget I supported and will receive more than \$300 million in total state aid this year to keep property taxes in check and pay for public school education, road improvements, capital projects and reimbursement for non-taxable property like hospitals. Additionally, 88 small businesses in Bloomfield, Hartford and Windsor have received millions more in state aid to create or retain hundreds of local jobs, and I've supported major investments to grow local jobs at Kaman, Cigna and Otis in Bloomfield and at Alstom and Dollar Tree in Windsor. I also secured funding this year for a new Weaver High School that will save taxpayers more than \$17 million.



A Boost for Working Families

This year Connecticut led the nation by voting to increase the minimum wage to \$10.10 over the next three years. As a result, working families across Connecticut will see a genuine change in their day-to-day lives. Faced with the costs of housing, food, utilities, car maintenance and gasoline, our current minimum wage isn't sufficient for many people to make ends meet. This will help our families and lift them up at a time when they need it most.

Bringing Bloomfield's Filley Park Back to Life

Thanks to my advocacy and that of Representative David Baram, Bloomfield is in line to receive \$600,000 in state funding for improvements at Filley Park, including sidewalks, construction of parking, dredging of the pond, an outdoor pavilion and installation of a fish ladder. For years Filley Park has been a vital part of our community. These improvements are just one part of our ongoing efforts to revitalize the park so it can continue to serve our families for years to come.



Reviewing plans for Filley Park with Deputy Mayor Joan Gamble.

Eric Coleman

Committed to Economic Recovery

Since the start of the global economic recession I've made it my mission as your State Senator to help small and mid-size businesses grow, create and retain jobs and put people back to work. As a result of legislation that I supported, we launched the STEP-Up and Small Business Express programs which have assisted almost 2,000 of Connecticut's small businesses create or preserve more than 17,000 jobs. These initiatives offer job training support for veterans and the unemployed and low-interest loans and grants for small businesses.

Over the past four years we have created more than 65,000 jobs and our unemployment rate recently fell below 7 percent for the first time since 2009. However, our work is not done.

Looking forward, Connecticut's new partnership with United Technologies Corporation will solidify our position as a world leader in aerospace manufacturing. Most importantly, this agreement has a direct impact on the 75,000 jobs at the thousands of aerospace supply chain companies throughout the state, ensuring they are keeping and creating good-paying jobs with good benefits for men and women in nearly every city and town in Connecticut.



Talking to Herman Todd, owner of Living Word Imprints on Homestead Avenue about the growth of his business, a recipient of a Small Business Express loan granted through the Hartford Economic Development Corporation.

Jobs for Veterans

I supported a bill that will remove barriers to entry into the civilian workplace for those who learned employable skills while in the service. This legislation will require state licensing authorities to accept military training and experience, where appropriate, as a substitute for other requirements, and will allow veterans to gain streamlined occupational certifications.



Veterans talk to employers at a Heroes for Hire job fair.

Resources to Grow Jobs

- ▶ **Job Expansion Tax Credits** for small businesses: www.decd.org
- ▶ **Small Business Express** to get funding for your small business: tinyurl.com/SmallBizXpress, or contact Michelle Peters at 860-270-8052 or Michelle.Peters@ct.gov
- ▶ **STEP-Up** (Subsidized Training & Employment Programs) provides worker training subsidies for small businesses and small manufacturers: www.stepct.com
- ▶ **Connecticut Reemployment Portal** if you have recently lost a job and are looking for work: www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP
- ▶ **Job & Career Connection** for details on job and training programs: www.ctjobandcareer.org
- ▶ Learn more about **Job Growth in Connecticut**: www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs



With Albert and Martha Grimaldi during a recent visit to the Windsor Senior Center.

A Rebate for Senior Renters

Being able to stay in their own home is a top priority for many senior citizens; however, this is a challenge for those living on a fixed income. In order to help offset a portion of their rent and utility expenses, we've re-opened the Elderly Renters' Rebate Program. Eligible persons may apply between April 1 and October 1. Questions about the program and payments should be directed to the **Renters' Rebate Hotline** at 860-418-6377.

A Stronger Do Not Call List

Shady telemarketers are increasingly ignoring our "Do Not Call Registry" resulting in unwanted and intrusive telemarketing calls and text messages. As technology evolves it is easier to get around the law and employ high-pressure sales tactics. That's why we passed a law this year to help Connecticut crack down on violators by increasing penalties and eliminating unsolicited text messages.

A Smart Start for Our Kids

Recognizing there is no better way to set students on the path to lifelong learning success than a high quality pre-kindergarten experience, we created the Connecticut Smart Start program to provide 50,000 more children access to vital early education in our public schools. Combined with additional slots for private providers, our comprehensive pre-K package will reduce the achievement gap and ensure that all children are ready to learn when they arrive at kindergarten. Every dollar invested in pre-K saves \$7 in avoided special and remedial education and criminal justice costs.

